

On another day I saw two large divers and followed them in a shikara. Whenever I got near they dived and came up 100 yards away. However I was able to see that they had large cormorant-like beaks, yellow facial skin reaching to the eyes some white on the lower breast, and were generally a brownish colour.

If I had been in Upper Burma where hundreds of shag appear in the cold weather I would have said *Shag*. However I am told that there are no such things in Kashmir. I wondered if this note would result in my hearing of any one else having seen a shag in Kashmir or further north. The time was early June and I never saw them again.

NEDOU'S HOTEL,

SRINAGAR,

C. E. MILNER.

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12.—ANCHYLOSED FANGS AND SOLID TEETH IN SNAKES.

Comparison of the length of fangs in some American snakes with that of the snake which possesses them suggested that the same principle would apply to their solid teeth which had become anchylosed to the jaw.

In measuring these small teeth one must guard against the measurement of ill developed teeth which are not yet anchylosed or the confusion of loose teeth from the erect row with some of the soft teeth of a hinder row.

Bitis arietans Merr. would seem to possess anchylosed teeth corresponding with the length of the snake at all ages, the front tooth of specimens eighty to ninety mm. in length being one millimetre longer than the rest.

The same would seem to be true of *Dendroaspis augusticeps* Smith whose big front tooth is only two millimetre long in specimens from 220 to 225 mm., and in *Naja* with 6 mm. fangs, the long narrower teeth of *Bitis* being related to slow movements.

Loss of teeth is infrequent except during dissection and it is uncommon to come across a broken tooth among the rows of teeth which are commonly alternately anchylosed, so that an anchylosed tooth seems to grow with the jaw.

Persistent pulp is readily seen in these solid teeth even after anchylosis, as it occurs in an anchylosed fang, and is evident before a tooth has developed along with the socket to which it becomes attached.

Once a fang or solid tooth has become anchylosed it could hardly be extracted without leaving some trace and loss of a whole tooth or fang strongly suggests that it had never become properly attached to the jaw.

Hinder teeth loose in the gum seem to represent those which are functional in fishes, there are two or three rows in the front